

TWO NEW AFRICAN SYNTOMIDAE.

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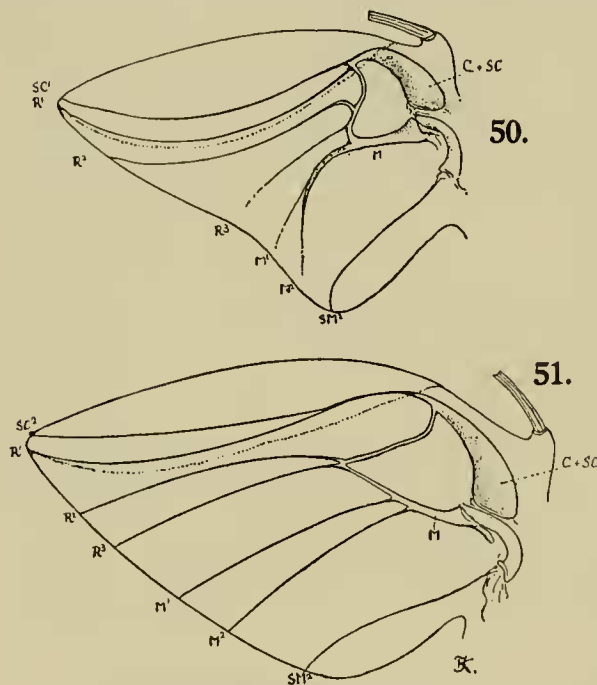
(With 2 text-figures.)

1. *Melisa hancocki* sp. nov. (text fig. 51).

THE two specimens here described were exhibited at the meeting of the R. Ent. Soc. Lond. on Oct. 18th, 1933, by Prof. G. D. Hale Carpenter, who mentioned the chief colour-distinctions from *Melisa diptera* Walk. 1854, but did not give a name to the species. Prof. Hale Carpenter has very kindly submitted

the specimens to me for further study; they represent both sexes of a new species, which I have much pleasure in naming after its discoverer.

Like the other species of the genus, glossy metallic blue. Near *M. atavistis* Hamps. 1911 in neururation; veins M^1 and M^2 of forewing not directed towards inner (= dorsal) margin as in ♂ of *M. diptera* Walk. 1854, but obliquely distad as in ♀. Differs from both *M. atavistis* and *M. diptera* in the legs being blue-black and in the dorso-lateral spots of the abdomen being quite small. Forewing beneath with a streak of semi-erect buffish brown scaling as in *M. atavistis*,

FIG. 50.—*Melisa diptera*, hindwing of ♂.FIG. 51.—*Melisa hancocki*, hindwing of ♂.

and as in that species without scent-organ at tornus. Scaling at apical margin of tergite VIII of abdomen scarlet; three anterior sternites (II to IV) of abdomen reddish orange, V to VII creamy buff, VIII scarlet; behind posterior coxae a reddish orange median spot.

♀. Like ♂, but anal tuft larger and bright tawny, less scarlet than in ♂; dorso-lateral spots of abdomen absent from segments II to V, metasternum without orange spot behind coxae, forewing beneath without brown streak.

Neururation of hindwing of ♂ less distorted than in *M. diptera*. In the ♂ of *M. diptera* (text-fig. 50) the base of SC^2 swollen, SC^2 and R^1 (6 and 7) separate, cell very short, being broader than long, cross-veins incurved below R^1 and then

directed obliquely distad, lower cell angle rounded, R^2 (= 5) curved at base, originating a little below middle of cell-apex, R^3 from oblique cross-vein well above cell-angle, distally obsolete, as are also M^1 and M^2 ; M^1 short, stout, M^2 gradually curved down, M^1 very thin, variable, branching off from M^2 at a considerable distance from cell. In the new species neuration of ♂ hindwing (text-fig. 51) nearly as in *M. atavistis* (cf. Hampson, *Lep. Phal., Suppl.*, 1, p. 84, fig. 17, 1914), but SC^2 and R^1 on a longer stalk and M^1 and M^2 closer together. In ♀ the cell of hindwing symmetrical as in the ♀ of *M. diptera*, with a median fold, the cross-veins forming an obtuse angle, SC^2 and R^1 stalked.

Genitalia (not dissected).—♂: anal tergite very short, divided into two short, broad, divergent horns which are directed more strongly laterad than in *M. diptera* and *M. atavistis*, the sinus between the horns being largest in *M. hancocki* and smallest in *M. diptera*.—♀: sinus of antevaginal sclerite more strongly rounded than in *M. diptera*.

Uganda: Mabiri Forest and Kololo (G. L. R. Hancock), 1♂, 1♀, in the Hope Department, University Museum, Oxford.

2. *Syntomis chariessa* sp. nov.

Syntomis cerbera, Hampson, *P.Z.S.* 1910, p. 390, nec L. 1764, err. of determination.

Near *S. damarensis* Grünb. 1910, which it represents in Rhodesia.

♂♀. Frons and coxae metallic black; scaling of apical fourth of antenna pure white, of first hindtarsal segment in ♂ usually more or less white, often some white scales also on segment II of ♂, in ♀ no white scales on hindtarsus; a small lateral spot on mesonotum, the metanotum, abdominal tergites I, III, IV and V, and a large lateral patch on pro- meso- and metasternites orange.

Translucent spots of wings small. Forewing: submedian spot behind cell more than twice as long as broad, not touching vein M^2 (= 2), narrowed to a point obliquely backwards; of the three discal spots the subcostal one small or (type) absent, the other two narrower, well separated from one another; fringe entirely metallic black.—Hindwing: interspace between the two spots at least as wide as the basal spot is long, usually much wider.

Neuration: SC^1 of forewing usually stalked with the other subcostals and R^1 , sometimes from cell.

Genitalia.—♂: lobe of VIII.st. short, broad, emarginate, with the angles strongly rounded. Clasper broad, with a large apical lobe and a large dorsal one, upper and lower apical angles of left clasper rounded, upper angle of right clasper acuminate; dorsal lobe of left clasper longer than that of right clasper. Harpe of right clasper quite short, that of left one recalling a soup-ladle with the handle twisted and the apical margin of the bowl excised with the angles of the excision produced into a tooth each. IX.t. with long neck, which is about as long as X.t (= uncus).—♀: orifice somewhat shifted towards left side.

N.-E. Rhodesia: Upper and Mid Loangwa valley, 1,700–2,000 ft., ii. iii. 1908 (Dr. S. A. Neave), a long series in the Hope Department.

S. cerbera L. 1764 is quite different in structure and is also easily recognised by the colouring of the thoracic sternites.